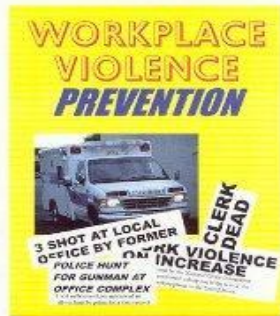




COMMUNITY NEWS

Via Linda District

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Workplace Violence Prevention

Homicide is the second leading cause of fatal occupational injury in the United States. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and National Crime Victimization Survey, nearly 1,000 workers are murdered and 1.5 million are assaulted in the workplace each year.

Although workplace violence by disgruntled employees gets the most media attention and "going postal" has become a household term, the truth is between 75 to 85 percent of job related homicides are committed by unknown assailants while in the commission of another crime.

Most incidents of workplace violence take place at the hands of robbers, thieves and burglars and other outside assailants, rather than co-workers. Although violence by disgruntled employees is a growing problem, most of the time it is a stranger who is the attacker.

Workplace violence is the product of an interaction among three factors: the individual who takes violent action; a stimulus or triggering condition that leads the person to take the violent action; and a setting that facilitates or permits the violence or in which there is a lack of intervention. You may not have control over the first two factors but you do over the third.

(Continued on page 2)



From The Desk Of Commander Burl Haenel

Have you ever walked into a parking lot and thought your vehicle was stolen? Your stomach sinks and then you realize you parked in a different location. To reduce the chances of having your vehicle stolen, you could have your windows VIN etched. This is the process of placing the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on every piece of glass. The first step involves making VIN labels and placing them on the windows of your vehicle. A chemical solution is put over the labels. The label is removed leaving the VIN etched on the glass.

There are several advantages to allowing a vehicle to be VIN etched.

1. - When a vehicle is VIN etched it allows us as law enforcement officers to see the VIN in several locations and not just the dash of the vehicle. We can readily identify ownership by using the VIN.
2. - It makes it difficult for the bad guy to VIN switch a vehicle since all the glass would have to be replaced to get rid of the original vehicle identity.
3. - Some Insurance companies will give you a discount for having your vehicle VIN etched.
4. - This is another layer in the prevention of Auto Theft.

Let's make it more difficult for the auto thief to get rid of the vehicle identity and easier for law enforcement to identify stolen vehicles. Contact Michelle Hanson of the Auto Crimes Unit about this free service at (480) 312-8565.

Commander Burl Haenel

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Planning can be the number one deterrent to workplace violence. Having policies and procedures in place can make the difference in preventing workplace violence.

The following safety tips are recommended to help both employers and employees mitigate potential danger:

Safety Tips for Employers:

- Take a physical security survey of your workplace and review current policies and procedures. Enlist the aid of security professionals or your police department's crime prevention officer to help identify possible security vulnerabilities in landscaping, lighting, employee and visitor access, and signage.
- When hiring new employees check references, work history, criminal records and education thoroughly.
- Conduct full national background checks on all employees and contractors annually and provide yearly training on workplace violence prevention.
- Encourage all employees to report unusual or suspicious behavior. Make sure they know who to report problems to and take those reports seriously.
- Develop a clear, written policy that spells out procedures in cases of violence and emergencies.
- Establish a pre-determined code word for employees to use when they need immediate assistance.
- Install video surveillance cameras to monitor both inside and outside your business. Video surveillance can be a deterrent to potential thieves. It can also be a valuable tool to help identify perpetrators and aid law enforcement before, during and after a robbery, theft or other crime.
- Implement access control systems and visitor management systems to handle visitor and employee access. All employees and visitors should display proper identification badges at all times. Make sure to immediately update access control systems, I.D. cards and readers when an employee leaves the company.

Safety Tips for Employees:

- Be aware at your workplace. If you notice someone unfamiliar to your office, someone without an I.D. card or behaving suspiciously, report it to your company's security team or your supervisor. Never approach anyone you think may pose a threat.
- Use the buddy system. If you ever feel unsafe walking to or from your car after work; walk with a trusted coworker or ask for a security escort.

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- Keep personal items such as purses and wallets in a secure place out of sight. About 75 percent of workplace violence incidents are robbery related, so consider the use of a locked cabinet or desk drawer to secure your valuables at all times.
- Knowledge is power, so take time to review and learn about your company's policy on evacuations, lockdowns, and violence. Knowing what to do and where to go in an emergency can save lives.

Preventative measure likes these are key to helping enhance workplace safety and can provide peace-of-mind for employers, employees and customers.

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Kory Sneed at 480-312-5696, email: ksneed@scottsdaleaz.gov, or District 3 Police Aide Terri Terlazzo at 480-312-8292, email: tterlazzo@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Upcoming Events

Paper Shredding Event – The Crime Prevention Unit will be presenting a paper shredding event on Saturday, February 13, 2010 from 9am-12pm at the Scottsdale Arts School located at 3720 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale. Please bring a cash donation of \$2 per box of paper to be shredded. For more information, contact Officer Craig Abernethy at (480) 312-2594.

Arabian Horse Show - Celebrate the 55th Annual Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show, February 11-21 at Westworld. Approx 8am-8pm daily. General admission is \$10.

Over 2000 of the world's most beautiful and talented Arabians come to compete for the title of Scottsdale Champion. There will also be over 300 commercial vendors that include art, clothing, jewelry, and horse supplies. Visit the website at www.scottsdaleshow.com

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817